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# DOG FISH DEPREDATIONS.

## Two-Hour Argument Against Pest at Washington.

### TIRRELL FAVORS BOUNTY.

Sum of \$50,000 Will, However,  
Be Asked for Experiments.

The depredations of dogfish were the subject of a two-hour hearing yesterday morning before a sub-committee of the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries at Washington.

Representative Greene is chairman of the sub-committee. Four members of the Massachusetts congressional delegations, Representatives Green, Tirrell, Gardner and McNary, and several experts of the department of agriculture and the bureau of fisheries, joined with the committee appointed by Gov. Guild in denouncing the dogfish, and recommending that something be done for its suppression.

As a result of the exchange of views Representative Greene, as chairman of the sub-committee, instructed by Dr. H. A. Smith, deputy commissioner of fisheries, to prepare a bill carrying an appropriation of \$50,000, to ascertain whether the dogfish can be utilized in the manufacture of fertilizer, oil, leather and a cheap article of food.

Mr. Greene stated that his sub-committee would approve such a bill, urge its acceptance by the full committee, and endeavor to get its provisions incorporated in one of the great appropriation bills.

This was conducted by Representative Tirrell, who has introduced a bill for the payment of a bounty of two cents per head upon dogfish captured or killed in the Atlantic ocean.

Prof. George W. Field, head of the fisheries department of Massachusetts, was the first witness. He produced a report which showed that the dogfish caused a loss of \$400,000 a year to the fishermen of Massachusetts. But the evil is not confined to Massachusetts, Prof. Field said. It is a national loss which involves the possible destruction of the entire supply of food fish on the Atlantic seaboard. Prof. Field referred to the importance of the fisheries as a training school for the navy.

Neither Prof. Field nor any of the other witnesses expressed themselves as wedded to the idea of bounty upon dogfish, but they urged that something be done.

Prof. Field concluded his statement by saying that he believed investigation of the subject of producing oil, leather, fertilizer, etc., from dogfish would result in the discovery of a method whereby the fish could be made practically to pay for their own extermination.

#### MCINTIRE GIVES FIGURES.

Ex-Representative Edwin C. McIntire of Gloucester followed Prof. Field. He referred to the astounding depredations of the dogfish, reported by various fishing vessels. Their depredations, he said, extended all the way from Cape Hatteras to Labrador.

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The payment of a bounty might be the best way of combating the evil, but that was a question to be determined by the experts of the federal bureau of fisheries. Several years ago Mr. McIntire said there were a number of small fishing vessels sailing out of Rockport, Gloucester, Ipswich, Newburyport, Salisbury, Portsmouth and other points along the coast, and they all made money. Now they have gone out of business because the dogfish have killed off the food fish.

State Senator H. A. Harding represented the Cape Cod fishing interests. The interests of his constituents, he said, had declined almost to nothing. He would not undertake to say that this was entirely due to the pernicious activity of the dogfish, but he thought that had a great deal to do with the present state of affairs.

He expressed the belief that properly treated dogfish could be converted into a cheap food supply for the masses, and it could be conveyed directly to them, owing to the methods of modern transportation, which have greatly extended the use of fresh fish. The skin of dogfish, too, would make good leather where toughness is desired.

Dr. A. C. True, chief of experiment stations of the department of agriculture, and Prof. W. A. Beale, his assistant, explained briefly the value of fish as a fertilizer. They suggested the establishment of a refining plant for the conversion of dogfish into useful substances.

Mr. H. M. Smith, deputy commissioner of fisheries, endorsed the suggestion to experiment with dogfish. He said this was the only means of meeting the situation, but he strongly opposed the bounty plan proposed in Representative Tirrell's bill. He urged the establishment of a small experimental station to determine the market value of dogfish as food, oil, leather and fertilizer.

Representative McNary entertained the committee with a brief relation of his experiences as an amateur fisherman. He said that on the Massachusetts coast, where some years ago he used to catch all kinds of good fish, he could now scarcely get a bite, except from dogfish, which demolished his fishing tackle.

#### CONGRESSMAN TIRRELL CLOSES.

The hearing was closed by Representative Tirrell in defence of his bill. He combatted the suggestion that a bounty is unconstitutional, as suggested by officials of the fisheries bureau. Mr. Tirrell said that the government has the power and the right to do anything to preserve the food supply of the country. He cited precedents for the payments of bounties for various purposes, notably the proposition now pending in congress to subsidize American shipping.

The dominion of Canada, he said, pays a bounty on dogfish. He argued that the United States has equal powers and duties to perform. Mr. Tirrell did not object to experimenting with dogfish, and the proposition of Chairman Greene to provide for these experiments by a bill carrying an appropriation of \$50,000 was accepted.

After conferring with the department officials present at the hearing, the Massachusetts delegation expressed the belief that the sum proposed would permit of the carrying on of experiments at fertilizer factories at Gloucester, Provincetown, Tiverton, R. I., and points on the coast of Long island and New Jersey.

These plants being already established, none of the appropriation contemplated would be necessary in the erection of buildings and purchase of machinery. The scheme would merely involve the superintendence by government officials of the experiments.

## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Squanto, via Boston, 2000 lbs. salt cod.  
Sch. Rob Roy, Georges, 33,000 lbs. fresh fish.  
Sch. George H. Lubee, via Boston.

### Today's Fish Market.

These prices are based on the last known sales.

Salt handline Georges codfish, \$5.25 per cwt. for large, \$4.25 for medium.

Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$4.70 for large, \$3.50 for medium.

Salt hake, \$1.00.

Salt haddock, \$1.50.

Salt cusk, \$2.25.

Salt trawl bank codfish, \$3.50 for large, \$3.00 for medium.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.  
Bank halibut, 10 cts. per lb. for white and 6 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish: Large Eastern cod, \$1.75; medium do., \$1.25; large Western cod, \$2.12 1-2; medium do., \$1.50; haddock, 85 cts.; cusk, \$1.25; hake, 80 cts.; pollock, 65 cts.

#### Boston.

Steamer Ida, 5000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Rapidan, 3500 haddock.

Steamer Quartette, 5000 haddock.

Sch. Annie and Jennie, 2200 haddock, 200 cod.

Sch. Tecumseh, 4000 haddock.

Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 4000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Kernwood, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 7000 haddock.

Sch. William A. Morse, 10,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Etta Mildred, 8500 haddock, 200 cod.

Sch. Ida S. Brooks, 10,000 haddock, 1200 cod.

Sch. Stranger, 8000 haddock, 800 cod.

Sch. Mary Edith, 7000 haddock, 1500 cod.

Sch. Ida M. Silva, 2000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Bertha M. Bailey, 3500 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. John M. Keen, 16,000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Fitz A. Oakes, 4000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Nokomis, 10,000 cod.

Sch. Mary A. Gleason, 4000 haddock.

Sch. Carrie F. Roberts, 1400 haddock, 1400 cod.

Haddock, \$4.50; large cod, \$6; market cod, \$3.50; hake, \$3 to \$5.50; cusk, \$2.50; pollock, \$3.12 1-2.

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## MADE BIG RECORD.

2720 Hogsheads of Salt Taken  
from Steamer Alicia.

By the D. M. Hilton Co.'s Stevedores in 9 1-2 Hours.

The record for discharging salt from a steamer was broken here yesterday when the D. M. Hilton Co. gang of stevedores, in charge of Capt. Philip Merchant, in little less than nine and a half hours, took out 2720 hogsheads of salt from the steamer Alicia, now lying in the inner harbor. Three hatches were worked all the time and four part of the time. It certainly was big work and the men in the stevedore gang say it was the biggest day's work at discharging salt ever done at this port.



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By the reports from **THE DOGFISH CRUSADE.** Washington, it would appear as if a definite step is to be made against the dogfish. It may be an experimental move, but to have the national government proceed that far would be exceedingly encouraging. Although Congressman Terrile seems to be making a persistent fight to embody a provision for a bounty on the pest in the proposed national legislation, by the information received the indication is that this feature may be eliminated. As the result of a conference, Representative Green, chairman of the sub committee, instructed Dr. H. A. Smith, deputy commissioner of fisheries, to prepare a bill carrying an appropriation of \$50,000, to ascertain whether the dogfish can be utilized in the manufacture of fertilizer, oil, leather and a cheap article of food.

It is reasonable to suppose that the fish commission was in sympathy with this plan, owing to the fact that an official of the body was requested to prepare the proposed measure. No complaint, however, can be made of the progress thus made; on the other hand, it must be admitted that so far much has been accomplished, the initial and important steps of having various national officials become interested being certainly a great point won. Much of the credit of reaching the present status belongs to the Massachusetts delegation, and no small amount of credit belongs to Ex-Representative McIntire of this city, who has labored with untiring effort in the hopes that the national government would lend its aid in adopting some measure which would aid in protecting the fishermen from the terrible ravages of the dogfish.

## MAGISTRATE MARCH TALKS.

### Hopes 'Satisfactory' Arrangement Will Be Reached in Herring Matter.

Magistrate March of Bay of Islands, N. F., recently addressed a large gathering at this place on matters pertaining to the welfare of Newfoundland. According to a correspondent in the St. John's, N. F., Herald he had the following to say about the herring difficulty and the Foreign Fishing Vessels Act:

"He regretted that the motives of the loyal people were misinterpreted and that they were made to appear as the injuring instead of being the injured ones. The whole matter was not thoroughly understood on either side early in the season. When our fishermen realized what was expected of them they acted like loyal subjects and patriotic citizens.

"They felt that the loss would be theirs, but in the winding up of the season's work were agreeably surprised to find they came out on the right side. It was most unfair and libelous on our people to report that the fishermen destroyed the property of the American vessel owners. He had a document in his possession signed by the American captains stating that this was not true.

"It was no secret that at Washington the highest authorities disapproved of the action of many of the American fishing crews while in Newfoundland waters, and in whatever friction there was, the Newfoundland fishermen took no part.

"He hoped, however, that before the time again came round for the prosecution of the herring fishery, a satisfactory arrangement would be effected between the British, American and Newfoundland governments, and that the necessity for warships and other forces of the law in Bay of Islands would be a thing of the past. In these matters it would be well to trust those in authority, and not be misled by every statement one hears. His speech was received with great applause and he was heartily thanked for his timely address."

## QUEEN OF MARDI GRAS.

### Was Daughter of Big Buyer of Gloucester Fish.

Miss Adrienne Lawrence of New Orleans, who was queen of the great annual Mardi Gras carnival recently held in that city, is a daughter of Mr. Charles H. Lawrence of the wholesale grocery firm of Charles H. Lawrence & Co., of that city, which concern is a very heavy buyer of fish from our leading firms here. Mr. Percy Hall of this city was in the employ of this concern for some time, but was obliged to give up his position and come north on account of the prevalence of yellow fever.

## SEAL FISHERS TO START.

### Newfoundland Steamers Ready for Opening of Season.

The start for the seal fisheries will be made from St. John's, N. F., on Saturday. Advice from that port state that so many men have applied to ship on the sealers that the captains have merely made a choice. It is expected that the season will be a protracted one, on account of the absence of ice and the probability of being obliged to go far north. It may also be a poor season, for although seals are reported plentiful in some places, there will be difficulty in getting them without the aid of the icefields.

## TO PROTECT OUR SPONGES.

Washington, March 8.—The senate committee on foreign relations authorized a favorable report on a bill to prohibit aliens from taking sponges in waters of the United States. The bill is designed to prevent natives of the islands off the southeast coast of the United States from trespassing on an industry that has grown to be one of the most important in Florida.

## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

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Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.

### Today's Fish Market.

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Salt trawl Georges codfish, \$4.50 for large, 3.50 for medium.  
Salt hake, \$1.00.  
Salt haddock, \$1.50.  
Salt cusk, \$2.25.  
Salt trawl bank codfish, \$3.50 for large, \$3.00 for medium.

Newfoundland frozen herring for bait, \$3.00 per cwt.

Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 per cwt.  
Bank halibut, 10 cts. per lb. for white and 6 cts. for gray.

Splitting prices of fresh fish: Large Eastern cod, \$1.75; medium do., \$1.25; large Western cod, \$2.12 1-2; medium do., \$1.50; haddock, 85 cts.; cusk, \$1.25; hake, 80 cts.; pollock, 65 cts.

## Boston.

Sch. Emily Cooney, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. A. C. Newhall, 4000 haddock.

Sch. Minerva, 2000 haddock, 2000 cod, 500 pollock.

Sch. Georgianna, 10,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Rose Dorothea, 14,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 4000 hake.

Sch. Buena, 10,000 haddock, 2000 cod.

Sch. Mary E. Cooney, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 1000 haddock, 1000 cod, 8000 hake, 2000 cusk.

Sch. Margaret Dillon, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Flora J. Sears, 5000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Louise R. Silva, 13,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Maud F. Silva, 15,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Robert and Arthur, 40,000 haddock, 5000 cod.

Sch. Galatea, 7000 haddock, 500 cod.

Sch. Shepherd King, 6000 haddock, 3500 cod.

Sch. Elsie F. Rowe, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Seaconnet, 12,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Mertis H. Perry, 2000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. Emerald, 7000 haddock.

Sch. Teresa and Alice, 21,000 haddock, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Flavia, 1800 haddock, 1500 cod, 500 hake.

Sch. Annie Perry, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Sch. Regina, 50,000 haddock, 1000 cod.

Haddock, \$2.00 to \$3; large cod, \$5 to \$5.25; market, \$3 to \$3.25; hake, \$2.50 to \$3; pollock, \$3; cusk, \$2.50.

## Fishing Feet Movements.

Sch. W. E. Morrissey is fitting for a salt bank trip under command of Capt. Hiram Forbes.

## Fishing Facts and Fancies.

The catch of Spanish mackerel at Miami was about 1,000,000 pounds this season, about the same as last.

## KEROSENE AUXILIARY.

### New Digby, N. S., Schooner Is So Equipped.

Digby, N. S., has a new fishing schooner, fitted with an auxiliary engine of which kerosene oil is the motive power. This craft, the Wilfred L. Snow, was recently built by Joseph McGill at Shelburne, N. S., from designs by B. B. Crowningshield of Boston.

She is fitted with a 20 horse power International Oil Engine Co. engine, which gives her a speed of six knots an hour, without sails. She hails from Digby, N. S., is owned by her master, Capt. John Snow, and Syda & Cousins.

In design she is a thoroughly modern, knockabout bow, short pole bowsprit, long overhangs forward and aft and has pole masts and no topmasts. She has accommodations for 12 men and carries five dories.

## FORCED BACK BY ICE.

### Sch. LaTooka However Sails Again From St. John's, N. F.

The British sch. LaTooka, bound here with frozen herring, is having a hard time getting away from St. John's N. F. After completing repairs she sailed, but was forced back by the ice at the mouth of the harbor. She made another attempt to get out a week ago yesterday and according to the St. John's paper, as the breeze was strong and fair, she should have no difficulty in getting to the southward and clear of the ice.

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## MET THE PRESIDENT.

### Massachusetts Committee Talk Dogfish with Ohio's Executive.

The ravages of the dogfish and shark among the fisheries of Massachusetts was discussed by the president yesterday with the committee appointed by the governor of Massachusetts to go there for that purpose. The sharks and dogfish are destroying large numbers of fish, the ravages being so extensive as to affect the fishing industry, especially mackerel and cod.

The members of the committee were introduced to the president by Congressman Gardner.

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### Bait is Scarce at Channel, N. F.

At Channel during the latter part of last week several boats were on the fishing grounds and found cod very plentiful. If the people had squid or herring bait they would make big hauls. There is hardly any herring to be had and the fishermen are offering \$3 per hundred fish or 3 cents per herring, but cannot get it even at this absurdly high figure. Friday heavy ice could be seen 20 miles off Cape Ray.

And this is the country that fills the papers full of stuff to the effect that she is the only place to get bait, and that but for her bait the American bankers would all fail of trips, and here is a case where she cannot even supply her boat fleet at Channel, Port au Basques and other points in that vicinity. "Physician, heal thyself."

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## WHAT OF THE SPRAY?

### Reports That She May Soon Give Up Otter Trawl.

### Intimated That She Will Engage in Fresh Halibuting.

Now that the steam otter trawler Spray is again undergoing an overhauling and repairing, there is much conjecture on T wharf, Boston, and in this city as to what the next move on the craft will be.

It is evident to men who own vessels, both here and at Boston, as well as to fish buyers at T wharf, including the ones who have stock in the craft, that she has come a long ways from reaching the expectations of her owners.

It is believed by the owners and buyers, who follow fish matters very closely, that whatever showing the craft has made, has been due to the unusually large school of haddock on Georges this winter, and also to the exceptional fine weather which has prevailed, giving the vessels a chance to fish about every day and bring in big fares.

Those who have carefully watched the operations of the season know that the Spray has not even kept pace with the hustlers of the off shore fleet, and it is doubtful if her record for the winter is even near the work of the average sailing trawlers.

Compare her showing with what was expected of her and even with what the average of the off shore haddockers have done, letting alone the "drivers," and all know that she has proven herself anything but the much-expected success which was so confidently predicted and that as far as the Spray is concerned the winter haddock fishery is yet to be revolutionized.

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None know better than the dealers on T wharf who own stock in her what the Spray has done, what she has not done, and how far she has come from filling expectations. After the second trip some of them, who, to tell the truth, were not too anxious to see her succeed, gave it out that they were satisfied that she was a failure as far as winter fishing for haddock and cod were concerned.

Others, more conservative, and more heavily financially interested, while admitting that the start was not propitious, still were looking for better results in the trips to come. As the trips came along after this and no improvement was shown after the fifth trip, some of the men among the fish buyers, men who were in for large amounts, began to admit that things were not coming as they anticipated.

Aside from this, it is open talk on T wharf that the Spray is falling far short of what is expected. Many of the dealers believe that her days with the otter trawl are numbered and many of them have the idea that she will later be heard from as a fresh halibuter, either on this or the Pacific side. Some of the buyers lay stress on the condition of many of the fish in her fare, pointing out that on one trip, a part of the fare had to be disposed of at 30 cents per hundred weight, when the lowest splitting price for haddock here this winter has been 85 cents per hundred weight.

It is but just to state that there are some, even now, who believe that the otter trawl can be made to work to a profit on this coast and who also think that even yet the Spray will prove it a success and that it is a better and more money-making method of haddocking than the sailing vessel equipped with the present style of trawls. Even these, however, are willing to admit that the Spray has, up to date, far from demonstrated that which they profess to believe.

One of these, who by the way is one of the largest and best known fresh fish men on the Atlantic coast, in conversation regarding the Spray with a vessel owner of this city, admitted frankly that the Spray was very far from being a success and a long ways from doing what was expected of her at the outset. He even intimated broadly that her days in the haddock fishery with the otter trawl would be very short, and also made it quite plain to his hearer that she would soon be found, minus the otter trawl, in some other line of the fisheries, and gave him to understand that there was every reason to believe that before long she would engage in halibuting after the present regular mode. Whether on this coast or the Pacific coast he did not say.

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## GARDNER'S AMENDMENT.

### To Pure Food Bill Reported by Committee.

### Allow Fish Packers External Use of Boracic Acid.

The pure food bill, which was reported yesterday from the committee on interstate and foreign commerce to the house, contains a provision permitting the use of boracic acid in preserving codfish. The provision is contained in a qualifying clause attached to the schedule of substances designated as impure, including that which contains an added poisonous or detestable ingredient which may render the food injurious to health.

The codfish packers are permitted to continue their present practice by the following language:

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"Provided that when in the preparation of food products for shipment they are preserved by an external application applied in such manner that the preservative is necessarily removed mechanically or by maceration in water or otherwise, the provisions of this act shall be construed as applying only when such products are ready for consumption.

This is the language of an amendment proposed by Representative Gardner to the bill which was adopted, as it was reported to the house in the 58th congress. Mr. Gardner stated in the course of hearings upon the present bill that the Gloucester fish packers would be satisfied if it was accepted by the committee.

The committee took the position that inasmuch as boracic acid is applied to the outside of codfish only, and as it is necessary to soak the fish in water for a long period before using in order to take out the salt, the preservative would also be washed out, and therefore it would not be fair to make the packed codfish, on the market subject to the scrutiny of the law when its constituents were materially altered before eating.

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## NEW DEPARTURE.

### Big Steamer for Halibuting Here the Coming Summer.

### Capt. Nathaniel Greenleaf Will Be in Command of the Craft.

A new departure in the fresh halibut fishery on this coast will be introduced the coming summer, when a new large steamer will engage in that line of the fishery. The craft is the new steamer Manhattan, which is being built for the New England Fish Company of this city by a firm on the Delaware river.

The steamer is now nearing completion and will be ready to sail on her maiden fishing trip by June 1. She will be commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Greenleaf of this port, a well-known and capable halibut fisher. Beside this she will also have a regular sailing master. The craft will have a crew of 32 men in all. She will have 12 dories and will carry 24 fishermen and two cooks, besides engineers, firemen and deck hands.

This will be the first steam craft to engage in the halibut fishery on the banks of the eastern Atlantic. It is presumed that most of her trips will be to the Funks and the faraway grounds off Belle Isle and to the northward, where halibut are more numerous in the summer than on any of the other banks.

It is given out that after next fall, the craft will go to the Pacific coast, where she is scheduled to become one of the New England Company's fleet engaged in the halibut fishery on the banks of the Pacific, off British America and Alaska.

Her operations on the banks here the coming summer will be watched with great interest by all interested in the fisheries and it is rumored that if she does well, her stay on this side will be longer than is now scheduled.